

REMARKS

Claims 1, 5-28, and 35-51 are pending.

Claims 2-4 and 29-34 have been canceled.

Election of Species

Based on the restriction requirement set forth in the Office Action of February 2, 2004, the Applicants elect the species of Figure 1. The claims readable on that species are claims 1 (identified in the Office Action as a generic claims), 5, 6, 19-23, 35 and 37-50. It is understood that, upon the allowance of the generic claim (claim 1), all of the claims will be rejoined.

Abstract

A new Abstract has been provided, which is more consistent with U. S. practice.

The Examiner is requested to approve the new Abstract.

Claims

As requested in Section 4 of the Office Action, a copy of all of the pending claims has been provided for the convenience of the Examiner in view of the new IFW (Image File Wrapper) system at the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office.

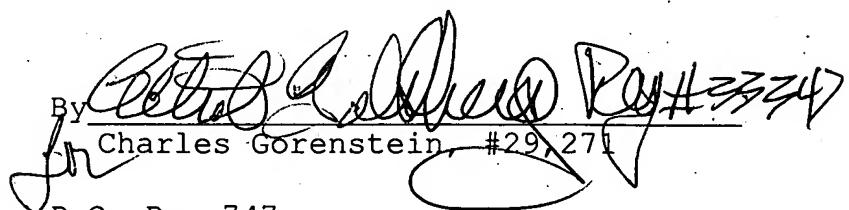
Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Elliot A. Goldberg (Reg. No. 33,347), at the telephone number of (703) 205-8000, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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